

Howard County Commission for Women
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046
August 8, 2017

Members Present

Neveen Kurtom, Chair
Jessica Epps, Vice-Chair
Megha Sharma, Recording Secretary
Lanlan Xu
Bano Rizvi
Joan Webb Scornaienchi

Members Absent

Suellen Seigel
Joyce Kim
Cindi Rubin
Nina Basu
Alice Giles

Staff Present

Jacqueline Scott, Executive Secretary
Becca Hunt, Administrative Secretary
Miriam Bennett, Social Worker for the Office of Aging and Independence

Staff Absent

Call to Order:

Chair Neveen Kurtom called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Approval of the Agenda:

Joan Webb Scornaienchi moved to approve the July Agenda and Bano Rizvi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of February Minutes:

Joan Webb Scornaienchi moved to approve the July Minutes and Bano Rizvi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with the exception of the spelling of Lori Ruben's last name.

Chair's Report:

Chair Neveen Kurtom, informed the commissioners that she had met with Vice-Chair Jessica Epps to discuss materials and handouts to distribute for publicizing the Commission for Women, especially in time for the October event. The chair suggested customized pens with the Commission for Women's name and logo. The commissioners were fine with that choice. Commissioners were reminded to inform Joyce of any suggestions for edits to the brochure by September as Joyce is working on the brochure additions and changes to be completed. The chair also introduced the idea of posting the Commission's meeting dates on the Facebook account as meetings are open to the public. The Commissioners agreed with this idea.

Executive Secretary's Report:

Jackie Scott, Executive Secretary for the Women's Commission, introduced the newest member Miriam Bennett who works for the "Office on Aging and Independence." Miriam gave a brief bio to the commissioners that she received a Master's Degree from the University of Maryland in Social work and information on the work she performs for the Office on Aging and Independence. She told the commissioners she is working on a dental screening event coming up soon.

Chair Neveen Kurtom asked the Executive Secretary, Jackie Scott, if there had been any more applicants for the Women's Commission. At this time, there are no advertisements for that yet. Facebook and the Women's Commission Website will be updated soon to reflect new members.

Old Business: Suellen is in the information gathering process on the Feminine Hygiene Drive.

New Business:

The Commissioners discussed their upcoming event on October 14th from 11-1pm.

Event Name – “Finding Your Own Path to Success”

Event Theme – To inform, and give insight to young women on how they can achieve their goals in the work place based on advice from a diverse panel.

Event Place – Suggestions and conversation took place about where the event should be held; Roger Carter Center, Howard County Libraries, or the 50+ Center.

The commissioners talked about how they would reach their targeted audience, the time of the event, concerns about parking, and the room space needed for the event. The Commissioners decided on the “Roger Carter Center” was the best for the event as the room is available for the ideal time frame decided in the last meeting and can seat 75 people.

Vice-chair Jessica Epps will be reserving the Oella room from 10 am to 1:30 pm. Chair Neveen Kurtom, explained they would like to have 5 panelists from diverse backgrounds, that are professionals that live or work in Howard County, they would like the panelist to speak (15 to 20 minutes), on what adversities they experienced, and how they achieved their goal, or how their path led them to the profession they have now. The Commissioners extended an invitation to our new Director Jacqueline R. Scott to be one of the panelist. That same invitation went to Commissioner Joan Webb Scornaienchi of Howard County Drug Free. Other, panelist considered are Judge Pamela J. Brown, and Judge Lenore Gelfman. Technical and Communications Director for Howard County Wynne (Win), Hayes and Carol Beatty, Secretary of Disabilities for the State of Maryland, an employee at Toby’s Dinner Theatre, and Dr. Tamika Aguste.

Chair-person Neveen Kurtom informed the commissioners she will be creating a master list of panelist suggested, and that the commissioners will have one week to submit their pick for this list. Finalization of the event name, food, and panelists should be decided by the September 9th Retreat.

Each panelist should have a biography and resume’ that will be handed out at the door to persons attending. Panelists will also receive a small gift in appreciation of their attendance to our event.

Dress for this event will be will be semi-professional clothes. Photos will be taken.

Lanlan will be reaching out to Howard County Community College

Megha will be reaching out to Voices for Change, Howard County Association of Student Councils, and the Girl Scouts

Alice will be reaching out to the high schools and newest member Miriam Bennett will be reaching out to the LGBTQQIP2SAA Community, The Committee for Diversity, and the Rainbow Alliance.

The Women’s Commission would like to send email blasts to the schools and if Howard County’s PIO office advertises the event, the student council will be able to advertise the event as well in their flier, which will include the names of the panelist.

Retreat: There will no meeting of the Women’s Commission in September the retreat will take the place of the meeting. The retreat will be tailored to assigning individual tasks in preparation for the Feminine Hygiene Product Drive and the Women’s Hall of Fame. The chair also asked the commissioners to please dress semi-professional because a photographer will be there to take their picture for the website and Facebook.

Adjournment:

The Women's Commission meeting adjourned at 7:50pm. Lanlan moved to adjourn, Joan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Megha Sharma

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10th at 7:00pm.